

Claims

1. A well screen comprising:
 - a filter layer;
 - 5 an outer stand-off layer around the filter layer; and
 - a cover around the outer stand-off layer; whereinthe outer stand-off layer is arranged to space the cover from the filter layer and resist collapse of the cover towards the filter layer.
- 10 2. A well screen of claim 1 wherein the outer standoff layer is a skeletal mesh.
3. A well screen of claim 1 further comprising an inner standoff layer covered by the filter layer.
- 15 4. A well screen of claim 3 wherein the inner standoff layer is a skeletal mesh.
5. A well screen comprising:
 - a filter layer;
 - a skeletal layer around the filter layer; and
 - 20 a cover around the skeletal layer; whereinthe skeletal layer is arranged to space the cover from the filter layer.
6. A method of forming a standoff layer in a well screen comprising the steps of:

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providing a pre-fabricated mesh;

wrapping the mesh around at least one underlying member of the well screen; and

connecting together the longitudinal edges of the mesh.

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7. A method claim 6 wherein the standoff layer is enclosed by a filter layer.

8. A method claim 6 wherein the standoff layer encloses a filter layer.

10 9. A well screen comprising:

a base pipe;

an inner standoff layer;

a filter layer covering the inner standoff layer;

an outer standoff layer around the filter layer; and

15 a cover around the outer standoff layer.

10. A well screen comprising:

a filter layer;

an outer stand-off layer which provides a cage for and/or is of greater

20 rigidity than the filter layer; and

a cover around the outer stand-off layer.